

# CONSUMER PROTECTION



WISCONSIN  
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TRADE AND  
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PROTECTION

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# News

January 2001 Edition

Dear Wisconsin Children's Safety Advocates:

In December, 2000, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued **eleven (11) recalls or alerts relating to products affecting children.** Attached is a summary of the releases identifying the product, problem and what should be done with the recalled product. If you double click on the hyperlink under the recall heading it will take you to the CPSC website and the actual recall notice.

If you have other product safety questions you may call our toll free number at **(800) 422-7128** and then press **"zero" (0)** to speak with **Product Safety** or call locally at **(608) 224-4988**. You should leave your name, your organization's name and a phone number.

Following is a listing of the eleven "KIDS" recalls by title and identification number:

- ❖ Sassy Inc. is recalling Squirting Fish Bath Toys. #01-062  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01062.html>
- ❖ Excite Ltd. is recalling Scooters. #01-059  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01059.html>
- ❖ Kolcraft is recalling "Ranger" Strollers. #01-056  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01056.html>
- ❖ Pier 1 Imports is recalling Stuffed Toys. #01-053a  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01053a.html>
- ❖ LeapFrog is recalling "Alphabet Pal" Electronic Pull Toys. #01-051  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01051.html>
- ❖ Playskool is recalling Busy Poppin' Pals Toys. #01-050  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01050.html>
- ❖ Kent Int'l & Kash 'N Gold Ltd. are recalling Scooters. #01-049  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01049.html>
- ❖ DiaTech USA and Derby USA are recalling Bicycles. #01-045  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01045.html>
- ❖ CPSC reminds parents about Nightwear Safety. #01-048  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01048.html>
- ❖ Small Beginnings Inc. is recalling "Pacee" Pacifiers. #01-047  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01047.html>
- ❖ "Dangerous Dozen" list of Recalled Toys released. #01-052  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01052.html>

We hope you find this service of value and that it assists you to:

**“KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE!”**

# KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

**Release Number:** 01-062 Sassy Inc., of Kentwood, Mich., is voluntarily replacing about 370,000 squirting fish in the Scoop Pour 'N Squirt and Bath Time Pals bath toys. The Scoop Pour 'N Squirt bath toy set has a large, colorful plastic fish-shaped scoop with a green textured handle and a spout for pouring water. This set comes with two small plastic squirting fish. The Bath Time Pals bath toy set comes with one squirting frog, two squirting pearls and two squirting fish. The toys comply with toy safety regulations. Mass merchandise stores and toy stores sold these toys nationwide from February 1999 to December 2000 for about \$5.

**Problem:** The fish's size, texture, shape and easy compressibility make it possible for an infant to compress the toy and place it in his or her mouth. If the toy reaches the back of the mouth and expands, it may block the child's airway.

**What to do:** Consumers should immediately take these squirting fish away from young children and throw them away. For additional information or to receive replacement squirt toys contact Sassy at (800) 764-8323 or visit their web site at: [www.sassybaby.com/safetynotice.html](http://www.sassybaby.com/safetynotice.html).

**Release Number:** 01-059 Excite Ltd., of Hong Kong, is voluntarily recalling about 80,000 scooters. The recall involves Excite Super Speeder II and Viper scooters. The scooter has a lightweight aluminum frame with black, foam handle grips. "Super Speeder II" or "Viper" is printed on the standing platform and on the steering column. The steering column also has "Excite" printed at the top. The scooter has 4-inch translucent in-line style wheels. Rite Aid stores nationwide exclusively sold the Super Speeder II and Viper scooters from August 2000 to December 2000 for about \$49. Only the Excite Super Speeder II and Excite Viper scooters sold at Rite Aid are part of this recall. This recall does not include the original Super Speeder or other Viper brand scooters.

**Problem:** The front of the folding mechanism, where the steering column meets the base of the scooter, can create a pinch-point. Fingers can be injured while folding or unfolding the scooter.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using these Excite scooters immediately and contact Excite Ltd. to receive a free cap that will cover the front of the folding mechanism. For more information, call Excite Ltd. toll-free at (888) 571-3731 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday.

**Release Number:** 01-056 Kolcraft Enterprises Inc., of Chicago, Ill., is voluntarily recalling about 25,500 strollers. The recalled strollers include the Kolcraft Ranger and Ranger Quattro with model numbers 46720 and 46721. The model number can be found on a sticker on the back leg frame of the stroller. The strollers have a sticker with "Ranger" or "Ranger Quattro" on the front of the footrest, and "Kolcraft" sewn into the safety belt harness material in the stroller's seat. The strollers also have a reversible handle that allows consumers to push the stroller while either facing the child or from behind the child. These strollers were manufactured from December 1999 through June 2000. The manufacture date is below the model number on the back leg frame sticker. Mass merchandise and juvenile products stores nationwide sold these strollers January 2000 through November 2000 for about \$80.

**Problem:** Lock mechanisms, found on both sides of the stroller, can break and create a pinch-point hazard. Young children can be injured when their fingers, arms or hands are pinched between parts of the locking mechanism.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using the strollers immediately and call Kolcraft to receive a free repair kit. For more information, call Kolcraft at (800) 757-4770 anytime. Ranger and Ranger Quattro strollers manufactured after June 2000 have different side-lock mechanisms, and are not included in this recall.

**Release Number:** 01-053a Pier 1 Imports, of Fort Worth, Texas, is voluntarily recalling about 600 stuffed snowmen and 1,300 stuffed reindeer toys. The snowman is about 10-inches high with a black hat, red scarf, two buttons attached to the body and an orange nose. The reindeer is brown, about 8-inches high with a red scarf and a set of

fabric-covered wire antlers. The label on the snowman reads "Pier 1 Imports" and "SKU#1840236." The label on the reindeer reads "Pier 1 Imports" and "SKU#1840249." Pier 1 Imports stores nationwide sold these toys from August 2000 through October 2000 for about \$6.

**Problem:** The toys have small parts, which could come loose, posing a possible choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should take these toys away from young children immediately. Return the toys to the store where purchased for a refund or exchange. For more information, call Pier 1 Imports at (800) 245-4595 between 8:30 a.m. and 11 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. CT Saturday, and 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. CT Sunday.

**Release Number:** 01-051 LeapFrog, a division of Knowledge Kids Enterprises Inc., of Emeryville, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 500,000 "Alphabet Pal" electronic pull toys. The "Alphabet Pal" is a green caterpillar pull toy, about 12 inches long, with four wheels. It has 26 plastic legs, one for each letter of the alphabet. When its yellow pull cord is tugged, the toy sings the ABC Song. Other functions include color and letter name identification, and letter sounds. The antennae on the caterpillar's head lights up. Writing on the toy includes, "LEAP FROG™" and "Made in China." Toy, department and specialty stores nationwide sold these toys from June 1999 through November 2000 for about \$20. Toys without plastic connectors on the pull-string are not part of this recall.

**Problem:** The toy has a two-part, red plastic connector on the pull string designed to separate under tension. The plastic pieces can detach from the string when the connector is pulled apart and could pose a choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should cut the red plastic string connector off of these toys immediately, or return it to the firm to receive a free replacement toy without a plastic connector. For more information, call LeapFrog at (877) 477-6641 anytime, write to: LeapFrog, 1400 65<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200, Emeryville, CA 94608-1071, or visit the firm's web site at [www.leapfrog.com](http://www.leapfrog.com).

**Release Number:** 01-050 Playskool, of Pawtucket, R.I., is voluntarily expanding its recall program for its Busy Poppin' Pals toys to include 170,000 Sesame Street Busy Poppin' Pals toys.

On August 16, 2000, Playskool and CPSC announced the recall of 420,000 Busy Poppin' Pals toys with model number 5415, featuring animal characters, for the same problem. Playskool's Sesame Street Busy Poppin' Pals toy is a 13-inch long white plastic toy with blue, yellow and green buttons, levers and knobs of various shapes that, when activated, make Sesame Street characters pop up from under the toy's base. The characters – Elmo, Ernie, Big Bird, Bert, and Cookie Monster – are hidden under corresponding blue, yellow or green lids that have the numbers one through five imprinted on top. The toy has a white carry handle and features the Playskool and Sesame Street logos on the front. The model number, "5446," "MADE IN CHINA" and "C-023B" are imprinted on the bottom of the toy. Mass merchandise stores and toy stores sold these toys (Playskool model 5446 made in China) nationwide from November 1994 through 1996 for about \$10. Busy Poppin' Pals toys with model 6205 have different springs and are not part of this recall. Any Busy Poppin' Pals toy that have "Made in Mexico" imprinted on the toy's bottom are not part of this recall.

**Problem:** Small springs inside these toys can break loose, posing a choking and laceration hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should take these toys away from young children immediately, and contact Playskool at (877) 518-9743 anytime or visit the firm's web site at [www.hasbro.com](http://www.hasbro.com) to get information about how to receive a free, redesigned replacement toy.

**Release Number:** 01-049 Kent International Inc., of Parsippany, N.J.; and Kash 'N Gold Ltd., of Ronkonkoma, N.Y., are voluntarily recalling about 97,500 scooters.

**Kent Kickin' Mini-Scooters:** Kent is recalling about 90,000 scooters. These are Kickin' Mini-Scooters made of chrome-plated steel. A vertical decal on the steering column reads "KICKIN' MINI SCOOTER." The scooter's black plastic platform measures about 15 inches long, and it has 4-inch translucent in-line style wheels. "KENT" and "MADE IN CHINA" are written on the lower part of the steering column. The scooters were sold with black backpacks embroidered in white with the word "Kickin'." Toys R Us stores nationwide sold the Kent scooters from May 2000 through September 2000 for about \$60. Kent has sold other models to Toys

R Us such as the Street Craze, the Street Racer and Scoot that are NOT part of this recall. Scooters that Kent sold to Wal-Mart, Meijer's, Target and AAFES are also NOT part of this recall.

**Problem:** The scooter handles can unexpectedly come out of the steering column if the clamp holding them in is not tight, causing the rider to lose control, fall and possibly suffer injuries.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop riding these Kent scooters immediately, and call Kent International to receive a free replacement handlebar with pins to secure the handlebars. For more information, call Kent International at (800) 451-KENT (5368) between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.

**Kash 'N Gold Racer X20TM Scooters:**  
Kash 'N Gold is recalling about 7,500 scooters. These are Racer X20TM model scooters. The scooters' platforms measure 20 inches long. The scooters are made from lightweight aluminum, and have translucent in-line style wheels. They have swivel handlebars with foam grips, which adjust to various heights. The nonslip surface on the deck of the scooter reads, "RACER." "X20" is written on the lower part of the steering column. The scooters are mostly silver, and have blue, green, red, orange or clear wheels. The scooters were made in China. Discovery and Mervyn's stores sold these scooters nationwide from August 2000 through September 2000 for between \$70 and \$100.

**Problem:** The plastic "T" joint between the handlebars can break, causing the rider to lose control, fall and possibly suffer injuries.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop riding these scooters immediately, and return them to the store where purchased for a refund or a new scooter with a metal "T" joint. For more information, call Kash 'N Gold at (800) 354-8785 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.

**Release Number:** 01-045 DiaTech USA, of Kenmore, Wash., and Derby USA, of Kent, Wash., are recalling about 5,000 bicycles for repair. These are 2000 model bicycles with the following brands and models:

<u>Brand</u>	<u>Model</u>
Raleigh	M600, M800, M8000
Diamondback	Zetec Comp, X-2
Univega	DS950, Alpina 700

They have ballistic spiral stop disc brakes. "DIATECH" is written on the brake. Raleigh, Diamondback and Univega bicycle dealers nationwide sold these bicycles from November 1999 through June 2000 for between \$800 and \$1,200.

**Problem:** The disc brakes on these bicycles can stick and prevent the brake pads from returning to the proper position when the brake lever is released. This can cause the rider to lose control and crash.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop riding these bicycles immediately, and return them to their dealer for free replacement of the front and rear brake calipers. For more information or to locate the nearest dealer, contact Derby USA at (800) 222-5527 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.

**Release Number:** 01-048 The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is reminding parents to choose sleepwear that will protect children from serious burn injuries. Loose-fitting T-shirts and other loose-fitting clothing made of cotton or cotton blends should not be used for children's sleepwear.

**Problem:** These garments can catch fire easily, burn rapidly, and are associated with nearly 200 emergency-room-treated burn injuries to children each year. Children are most at risk from burn injuries that result from playing with fire (matches, lighters, candles, burners on stoves) just before bedtime and just after rising in the morning.

CPSC sets national safety standards for children's sleepwear flammability to protect children from serious burn injuries if they come in contact with a small flame. Under federal safety rules, garments sold as children's sleepwear for sizes larger than nine months must be either flame-resistant or snug-fitting. Flame-resistant garments are made from inherently flame-resistant fabrics or are treated with flame retardants and do not continue to burn when removed from a small flame. These sleepwear garments are often labeled "Flame Resistant."

Snug-fitting sleepwear is made of stretchy cotton or cotton blends that fit closely against a child's body. Snug-fitting sleepwear is less likely to come into contact with a flame and does not ignite as easily or burn as rapidly because there is little air under the garment to feed a fire. Yellow hangtags and permanent labels on snug-fitting

children's sleepwear, made of cotton or cotton blends, remind consumers of the importance of a snug fit.

**Release Number:** 01-047 Small Beginnings Inc., of Hesperia, Calif., is recalling about 16,000 pacifiers. The "Pacee" pacifiers are aqua blue with a soft, butterfly-shaped shield and semi-circle tab handle. "Pacee" and "Small Beginnings" are imprinted on the shield along with the firm's toll-free number. They are packaged in a plastic bag and labeled "Small Beginnings" and "pacee." Also on the bag is a picture of a baby sleeping with a teddy bear. Various hospitals and medical supply distributors sold these pacifiers nationwide from October 1999 through April 2000 for about \$1.

**Problem:** The pacifiers failed CPSC testing standards. These pacifiers present a choking hazard to infants.

**What to do:** Consumers should take the pacifiers away from infants immediately, and return them to the firm for a refund. For more information, consumers should call Small Beginnings at (800) 676-0462 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.

**Release Number:** 01-052 The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is launching a new safety campaign to get dangerous toys out of people's homes. Despite recall notices and public warnings, CPSC has found that many products with the potential to seriously injure or kill are still being used by consumers. CPSC is releasing a list of dangerous recalled toys – encompassing a total of nearly 50,000,000 product units – that might still be in people's homes. Parents can use the list to check for recalled toys before they bring new toys into their homes over the holidays.

Today, CPSC is issuing its list of hazardous toys recalled in the past year. Parents can get the list by going to the CPSC website, [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov), or calling toll free, 1-800-638-2772. This list identifies recalled toys that are off store shelves but may still be lurking in toy boxes or closets.

Recalled Toys that May Still be in Consumers' Homes:

"Pokemon Balls" (25 million) distributed in Burger King kids meals in November and December, 1999, may pose a suffocation hazard to children under 3 years of age if either half of the ball gets stuck on the child's face, covering the nose and mouth. Take the "Pokemon Balls" (including the clip) away from children under the age of 3 years and discard the ball or return both halves to a Burger King restaurant for a free small order of french fries.

"KFC Tangled Treeples Toy" (425,000) distributed in KFC kids meals in June and July, 2000. The container can fit over a child's nose and mouth, posing a suffocation hazard to children under 3 years of age. Discard the container or return it to any KFC restaurant for an individual-sized side item, such as macaroni and cheese.

"Fazoli's Pasta Pals" (310,000) distributed in Fazoli's kids meals from January to August, 2000. The container can fit over a child's nose and mouth, which could pose a suffocation hazard to children under 3 years of age. Discard the container or return it to any Fazoli's restaurant for a free Italian Lemon Ice.

Scooters: "Kent Kickin' Mini-Scooters" (90,000) sold from May 2000 through September 2000 and "Kash 'n Gold Racer X20 Scooters" (7,500) sold from August 2000 through September 2000.

– See earlier listed release –

"Toy Basketball Nets" (11 million) sold between 1976 and 1998 can strangle children on loops or openings in nets that come unhooked from the rim or have knots that slide. People should remove and throw away nets that can unhook or have knots that slide. Call the manufacturer to get new nets that securely attach to the rim and do not have sliding knots.

"Sky Dancers Flying Dolls" (8.9 million) sold from 1994 through 2000 can fly rapidly in unpredictable directions and can hit and injure both children and adults. Call Galoob toll-free at (877) 598-5599 to get instructions on how to return the flying dolls to receive a product of equal value.

"Wiggle Waggle Caterpillar" (1 million) sold from 1998 through 2000 from Child Guidance presents a choking hazard because of small balls attached to these toys. Call Child Guidance at

(877) 586-1006 for information about sending back the toy to receive another toy of similar value.

Battery-powered toy riding vehicles (500,000) sold by Tek Nek Toys, Empire Industries and Fisher-Price from 1995 through 2000 depending on model. Battery charger can overheat presenting a fire hazard (Tek Nek, Empire), or foot pedals can stick in the "on" position and children can be injured when vehicle fails to stop or strikes other objects (Fisher-Price motorcycles).

"Busy Poppin Pals" (590,000) sold from 1994 through 2000 by Playskool have small springs inside that can break loose, posing a choking and laceration hazard to young children. Call Playskool at (877) 518-9743 to receive a free, redesigned toy.

"Klackeroo" (550,000) sold from October 1997 through September 2000 by Playskool has small, geometric-shaped pieces that come loose, posing a choking hazard to infants and young children. Call Playskool at (888) 671-9764 to get a redesigned replacement toy.

"Leapfrog Alphabet Pal" (500,000) electronic pull toys sold from June 1999 through November 2000 by Knowledge Kids Enterprises Inc. have a red plastic connector on the pull string that can be pulled apart, and the end pieces pose a choking hazard to young children.

-See earlier listed release -

"Xylophone Mallets from Stand-Up 'N Play Tables" (124,000) sold from 1996 through 1999 can become lodged in the throat of a young child, posing a choking hazard. Call Shelcore at (800) 777-0453 to get a free replacement mallet.